

Leah Messinger
Education Abroad
STEP Mentor: Anita Parker
Major: Dance

Dance Denmark

Description:

The Dance Denmark program is a six-week education abroad program in Denmark that is offered through the Department of Dance, which started on May 26, 2019 and ended on July 6, 2019. Throughout this time, we toured to various cities including Copenhagen, Slagelse, Odense and Aalborg.



Motivation:

This program attracted me because of the previous group of dance majors who were transformed by their experiences abroad. I was intrigued by the idea of traveling to a new country to engage in a unique dance environment with my peers and getting to see what goes into being apart of a professional, touring dance company.

What was transformational about this project?

- I traveled with fifteen other dance majors and an assistant professor to immerse ourselves in the artistic culture of the area while engaging in dance practices with other local students and dance professionals.
- When we arrived, we were joined by a former visiting assistant professor, Ann Sofie Clemmensen, who is a Denmark native, and she was able to give us additional insight into the country's rich culture.
- The primary objective of this project was to bring the current knowledge we have about dance into a new country where we shared and collaborated with others, as well as gleaned information from our new environment.
- Getting to immerse ourselves in the Danish culture when we stayed at the Gerlev school in Slagelse and learning about "hygge" while staying there
- Performing and taking classes in various venues throughout Denmark
- Traveling as a group of American dancers in a foreign country
- Coping with injury and having to problem solve as a result

